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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/627,410	07/25/2003	Donald E. Hutchison II	15777.1	2834

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MCAFEE & TAFT
TENTH FLOOR, TWO LEADERSHIP SQUARE
211 NORTH ROBINSON
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73102

EXAMINER

MATECKI, KATHERINE A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3654

DATE MAILED: 05/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/627,410

Applicant(s)

HUTCHISON ET AL.

Examiner

Katherine Matecki

Art Unit

3654

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 and 15-64 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 19-49 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13, 15-18 and 50-64 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: ____.

Allowability Withdrawn

The indicated allowability of claims 1-13, 15-18 and 50-64 is withdrawn in view of the newly presented rejections based on Liao, U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0171000 A1. Rejections based on the reference(s) follow.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-13, 15-18, 50-61, 63, and 64 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Liao, U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0171000 A1.

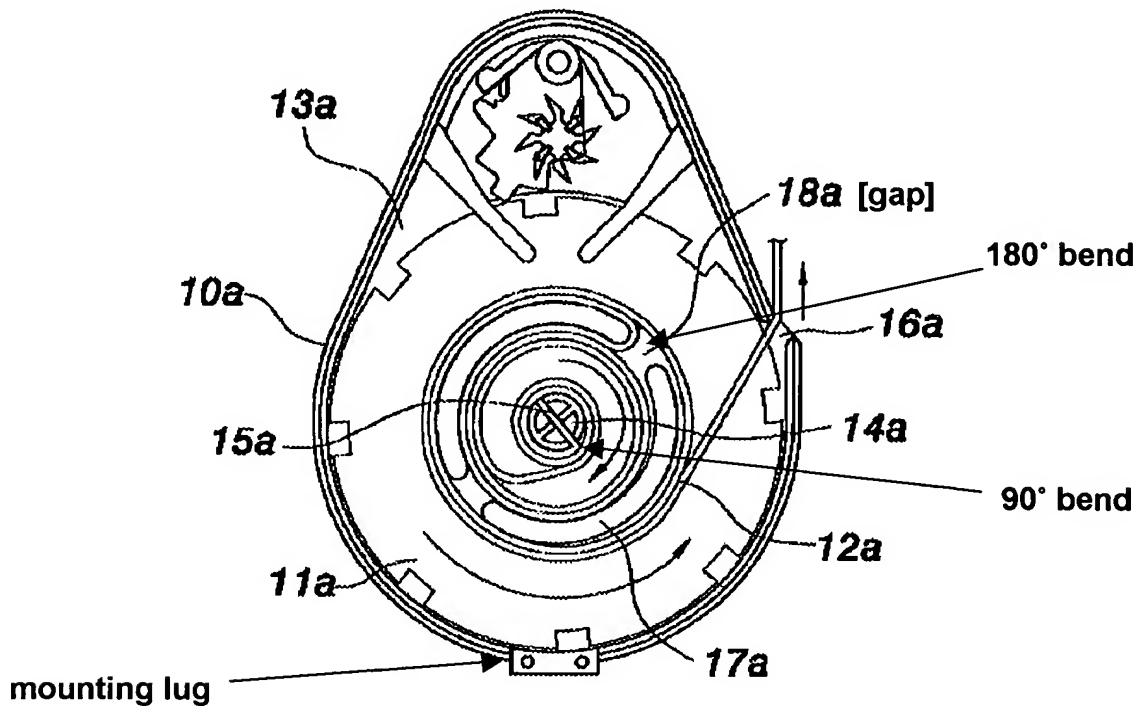
Figure 2 of Liao shows a retractable reel apparatus comprising:

a housing 10a;

a reel disposed in the housing, the reel having a cylindrical portion 17a, the cylindrical portion defining a gap 18a; and

a wire 12a having a first portion disposed inside the cylindrical portion, and a second portion disposed around the cylindrical portion, wherein the first and second portions are interconnected by a substantially 180° bend in the wire, the bend being disposed in gap 18a.

With respect to claims 2, 3, and 51, as indicated by arrows in figure 2, the first and second portions of the wire are wrapped in opposite first and second directions.



Liao, Figure 2

Regarding claims 4 and 50, figure 3 of Liao shows that the wire 12a is flat.

Regarding claim 5 and 52, as noted in paragraphs [0002] and [0003], an unshown spiral reed spring is provided to bias the reel in a direction to wind up the first portion of the wire.

Regarding claims 6, 7, 53, and 54, a rotary disk 11a spaces the spring from the wire. The unillustrated reed spring of Liao's figure 2 is understood to be on the opposite side of disk 11a from the wire. This structure is best illustrated in figure 4 of Liao.

Liao includes first wire outlet 16a and second wire outlet 15a, through which the first and second portions of the wire extend, as recited in claims 8 and 55.

Liao's housing includes a cylindrical portion, a side wall, and a cover. The first wire outlet 16a is generally tangential to the cylindrical portion of the housing, as recited in claims 9, 10, 56, and 57.

The second wire outlet 15a of Liao is between the housing and the cover, as recited in claims 11 and 58.

The second opening of Liao is substantially perpendicular to the axis of the housing, as recited in claims 12 and 59.

The wire opening 16a of Liao is formed as a slot in the cover, as recited in claim 13.

As recited in claims 15, 17, and 60, the second portion of the wire extends through the slot and is substantially perpendicular to the cover, so that the ends of the first and second portions of the wire in are planes substantially perpendicular to one another.

Regarding claim 18, a mounting lug for mounting the cover on the cylindrical portion of the casing is provided at the bottom of the cover, as seen in figure 2 of Liao.

Regarding claims 61, 63, and 64, the second portion of the wire of Liao includes three bends of 90, 180, and 90 degrees so that the second wire portion is substantially perpendicular to an end of the first portion of the wire. While only one 90-degree bend is clearly illustrated in the figures, the three claimed bends would

inherently be present in Liao's device in order for the second end of the wire to extend perpendicularly as illustrated in figure 9.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 62 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liao in view of Santos et al.

Liao does not include a brush in wiping contact with the first portion of the wire.

Santos et al. shows a host washing and winding device which includes guide members 67, 69, which include brushes in wiping contact with the hose during winding, for the purpose of cleaning the hose as it passes between the brushes.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to provide the winding device of Liao with brushes in the first opening, in wiping contact with the cord being wound, in order to clean debris off the cord before entering the housing and avoid fouling of the winding mechanism.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 19-49 are allowed.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Jackson shows an electrical cord winding including a dust bushing 76 for cleaning the cord. Naneff, U.S. Published Application No. 2005/0161548, shows an electrical cord winder used in an automotive environment and including brushes 115 installed in an opening in the housing for cleaning the cord as it is wound in.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Katherine Matecki whose telephone number is (571)272-6951.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

kam
5/16/2006



KATHY MATECKI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600